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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

September 14, 2021

Lloyd J. Austin III  
Secretary of Defense  
Department of Defense  
1400 Defense Blvd  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Austin,

I write to bring your attention to the application submitted by the City of Springfield, Ohio on behalf Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) for the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) grant. The grant funding will create a facility to house the National Advanced Air Mobility Center of Excellence (NAAMC), creating an environment for testing by industry, academia, and government on Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), flying cars, and technologies for commercialization and future military application.

WPAFB and the City of Springfield have created an apparatus for unmanned aerial systems research and testing in Ohio, which would enable collaborative private and public research to accelerate the development of AAM technologies. This project would provide job opportunities for Ohioans, attract new company investments to Ohio, and support the mission of Ohio's military research institutions by expediting the development of new technologies in support of the nation's warfighters. The City of Springfield is building a new facility at the Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport to house the NAAMC and this DCIP request would help construct a new office and hangar facility to further the strategic initiative to become the nation's preeminent location for the development and early adoption of AAM technologies.

With the support of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the AAM industry is poised to grow significantly in the nation, with much of that growth captured in Ohio. The Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport and southwest Ohio are on the forefront of AAM and flying cars, and the DCIP funding will continue to push Ohio's innovations in this space while growing the economy in southwest Ohio. Additionally, Ohio is home to top universities and research facilities that will ensure that the NAAMC has a pipeline of talented employees to drive progress in the AAM and military innovation.

As the economy works to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, strategic improvements to improve the efficiency of our nation's infrastructure, technologies, and innovation will help accelerate the rebound and give opportunities to future military uses. I ask that you give full and fair consideration to the City of Springfield's application to bring the NAAMC to Ohio for funding in the DCIP.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator